

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: UNGA, UNDP

SUBJECT: 29TH UNGA: SECOND COMMITTEE - OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT - UNDP, ITEM 45(A) DRAFT RES - A/C.2/L.1349 REV 4

REFERENCE: 1) USUN 3974; 2) STATE 225809 3) USUN 4575; 4) USUN 4728

1. REV 4 OF DRAFT RES AS FURTHER ORALLY AMENDED APPROVED BY SECOND COMITE BY VOTE 108-0-2 (BRAZIL AND GABON) A.M. 12 NOVEMBER FOLLOWING SEPARATE ROLL CALL VOTE CALLED FOR BY UPPER VOLTA ON LAST PREAMBULAR PARA (101(US)-0-0 AND SEPARATE VOTE CALLED BY BRAZIL TO RETAIN WORDS "IN PARTICULAR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNDP REGIONAL OFFICES IN THE FIELD" IN OP PARA ONE 81-0-26(US). BRAZIL SPOKE BEFORE THE VOTE WITH FRG, UPPER VOLTA, FINLAND, US, UK, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, DAHOMEY, CANADA, URUGUAY, SENEGAL AND ECUADOR ALL SPEAKING AFTER THE VOTE.

2. ORAL AMENDMENT CONSISTED OF ELIMINATION OF WORD "CLOSE" IN FOURTH LINE OF OP PARA ONE.

3. BRAZIL (BRITO) SAID IT WAS FRUSTRATED BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN ALMOST NO DEBATE OF THE RESOLUTION
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IN COMITE AND RES AS WRITTEN WHILE WELL MEANING

ONLY ATTEMPTED TO FOCUSED ON PART OF THE PROBLEM IN RATIONALIZING UNDP'S OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DELIVERY CAPABILITY AND NOT EVEN THE MOST IMPORTANT PART WHICH SHOULD BE TO FIND WAYS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL BUREAUS AT UNDP HEADQUARTERS (AS ENVISAGED IN THE UNDP CONSENSUS) VIS-A-VIS THE CENTRAL STAFF OF UNDP WHICH IN BRAZIL'S VIEW WAS NOT TOO STRONG AND THE CAUSE OF BOTTLENECKS, SLOW DELIVERY OF PROGRAM, CONTRARY TO THE INTENTION OF THE CONSENSUS ETC.

4. UPPER VOLTA SUPPORTED BY DAHOMEY AND SENEGAL SAID IT CALLED FOR ROLL CALL VOTE ON LAST PREAMBULAR PARA AS IT WANTED RECORD TO BE AS CLEAR AS POSSIBLE THAT IT WAS OPPOSED TO THE ADMINISTRATOR OF UNDP HAVING TAKEN IN THE PAST OR TAKING IN THE FUTURE ANY BASIC RESTRUCTURINGS OF THE UNDP AFRICA BUREAU WITHOUT DUE PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES. SAID UNDP HAD IN THE RECENT PAST ON OCCASION KEPT THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN "DELIBERATE IGNORANCE" RE ITS ACTIONS TO REORGANIZE THE AFRICA BUREAU AND FIELD OPERATIONS AND MARKEDLY MODIFY THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BUREAU.

5. SHORT STATEMENTS BY FINLAND, UK, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, CANADA, URUGUAY AND ECUADOR WHILE DIFFERING SLIGHTLY WANTED TO BE SURE ISSUE WAS IN NO WAY PRE-JUDGED AS THEY HAD EITHER AN OPEN MIND OR REAL DOUBTS RE WHETHER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL FIELD OFFICES WOULD BE COST EFFECTIVE, AND ACTUALLY SPEED DELIVERY. CANADA AND FINLAND SAID MATTER SHOULD HAVE EMANATED FROM UNDP GC NOT FROM THE GA.

6. TOUGHEST STATEMENT MADE BY FRG WHICH QUOTED BELOW AS U.S. DEL BELIEVES STATEMENT OF INTEREST MANY IN WASHINGTON AND TO U.S. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 19TH UNDP GC MEETING IN JANUARY:

"MY DELEGATION IS GRATEFUL TO THE CO-SPONSORS
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THAT THEY ACCEPTED IN PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH 1 THE WORDS "AND THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT UNDP CONTINUES TO BE A SINGLE UNIFIED PROGRAMME." THE PRESENT WORDING OF PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH 1 HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOUR REGIONAL BUREAUX. THIS LANGUAGE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE DECENTRALIZATION AN AIM IN ITSELF THAT IT

REGARDS DECENTRALIZATION OF UNDP ACTIVITIES TO BE USEFUL ONLY IF IT CONTRIBUTES TO AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE PROGRAMME DELIVERY.

"OUR VOTING IN FAVOUR OF THE LAST PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH IN NO WAY CHANGES OUR POSITION THAT MANAGERIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS LIKE THE ORGANIZATION OF THE REGIONAL BUREAUX ARE THE EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL.

"OUR ACQUIESCENCE IN OP PARA 1 DOES NOT EXCLUDE STRONG DOUBTS AS TO THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THIS REQUEST BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IN OUR VIEW IT INFRINGES UPON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR THE FORMULATION OF UNDP POLICY AND THE REVIEW OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION BOTH AT THE PLANNING STAGE AND IN PRACTICE. THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS CLEARLY SPELLED OUT IN PARAGRAPH 56 OF THE UNDP-CONSENSUS. IN THIS CONNECTION I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE A GENERAL REMARK. THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL KNOW THAT THE COUNCIL IS ABLE TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE GUIDANCE AND SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE PROGRAMME, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS. AS AN EXAMPLE I WOULD MENTION THE AGREEMENT REACHED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL REGARDING THE INDICATIVE PLANNING FIGURES FOR THE NEXT PROGRAMME CYCLE. THE REORGANIZATION WHICH TOOK PLACE IN 1970 TO IMPROVE UNDP'S EFFICIENCY ALSO WAS INITIATED ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND FINALIZED IN THE CONSENSUS ON THE CAPACITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM. MY DELEGATION IS CONCERNED TO NOTE A TENDENCY TO TRANSFER THE DECISION-MAKING

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ON QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROGRAMME AND CO-OPERATION WITHIN UNDP FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE POINT IS TO STRIKE A REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN THE OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR MATTERS OF POLICY AND THE SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR POLICY GUIDANCE WITH REGARD TO THE PROGRAMME. EXPERIENCE WITH THE SOLUTION OF DIFFICULT PROBLEMS HAS SHOWN THAT THE COUNCIL IS INDEED ABLE TO FIND A SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE BETWEEN DIFFERENT INTERESTS. WE SHOULD NOT GIVE UP THIS USEFUL PRACTICE. I WISH TO MAKE IT QUITE PLAIN THAT A CONTINUATION OF THE TENDENCY I JUST MENTIONED WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON MY GOVERNMENT'S READINESS TO CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT OF UNDP."

7. SHORT U.S. STATEMENT MIRRORING INSTRUCTIONS
CONTAINED STATE'S 225809 QUOTED BELOW:

"WHILE THE US DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO VOTE FOR
THIS RESOLUTION AS AMENDED AND WELCOMES THE STUDY OF
THIS QUESTION AS SUGGESTED IN THE RESOLUTION, WE
DO HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE ADVISABILITY
FROM AN EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS POINT OF VIEW
OF SETTING UP REGIONAL FIELD OFFICES IN TERMS OF THE
EFFECT THEY WOULD HAVE ON THE TOTAL
COHERENCE OF THE PROGRAM. FURTHER MY DELEGATION
WOULD ALSO HAVE PREFERRED FOR THE REQUEST FOR THE
STUDY IN QUESTION TO HAVE COME FROM THE UNDP GC
RATHER THAN FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY."
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